

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Please find accompanying this response replacement sheets for Figs. 15-17 where the reference number 11A has been changed to 11B.

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 remain pending in this application. New claim 4 is added herein. Claims 1-3 are amended herein to clarify the invention, and to address objections, issues of indefiniteness, and matters of form unrelated to substantive patentability issues.

Claim 3 is objected to as being in an improper multiple dependent form.

Claim 3 is amended herein to refer to other claims in the alternative by using a form of “acceptable multiple dependent claim wording” as per MPEP §608.01(n).

The drawings are objected to for not including the reference sign 11B that is referred to in the specification.

Figs. 15-17 having a typographical error have been amended herein to change “11A” to “11B”. The specification clearly identifies the cover of Figs. 15-17 with the reference sign “11B”. See Specification, paragraph bridging pages 5-6.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph for lack of enablement.

Claim 3 is amended herein to clarify the structure being claimed. The claimed structural limitations are supported by the specification, particularly by the discussion on page 4, first full paragraph.

Claims 2-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for issues of indefiniteness.

Claims 2 and 3 are amended herein to clarify the structures being claimed. In particular, claim 2 has been amended to clarify where the upper blade support plate is placed on the lower surface. Claim 3 has been amended to clarify what applicant intended by reciting “can cast”, namely, that the blades are positioned on the impeller so that the blades and the impeller can be cast together as a single integral piece by a single mold. Claim 3 has also been amended to remove recitation of “sliding core”, thereby rendering the rejection regarding the lack of antecedent basis for this limitation moot.

Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Yamashita (U.S. Pat. No. 6,236,129) in view of Obinelo et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 7,435,051). In essence, the rejection characterizes the claims as simply combining prior art elements according to known methods to yield predictable results.

MPEP §2143 states that when rejecting a claim based on the rationale that the recited structure is simply “combining prior art elements according to known methods to yield predictable results” there must be a “finding that the prior art included each element ... with the only difference between the claimed invention and the prior art being the lack of actual combination of the elements in a single prior art reference.” In addition, there must be a finding that “each element merely performs the same function as it does separately.” MPEP §2143. Applicants respectfully aver that the claims as amended overcome the rejections at least for the reasons discussed below.

Yamashita discloses a “pivot bearing” (9) where the leading end thereof is in contact with a rotor (8). See Yamashita Fig. 2 and col. 5 lines3-4. In contrast, the current invention discloses a non-contact fluid dynamic bearing where the shaft (18) around which the rotation member (24) is rotatably supported is not in contact with the rotation member (24). See specification page 6 and Fig 4. Thus in the

current invention, thrust is translated from the shaft to the rotation member by thrust magnets. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the structure of the motor which is supported by the discussion in the specification, particularly the discussion in the paragraph bridging pages 3-4.

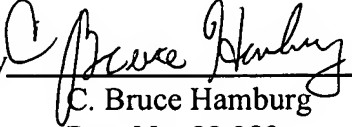
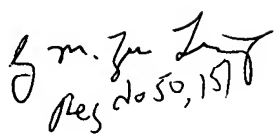
Obinelo discloses a support plate (105) on a lower surface of the blower (100). The support plate is in the shape of a wheel or a circle. See Obinelo col. 2, lines 27-28. As may be clearly seen in Fig. 1, the support plate (105) has no apertures, except possibly where the motor (140) is coupled to the support plate (105). Thus, the support plate (105) in conjunction with the inlet rings (125, 130, 135) does not provide for equalization of a pressure difference between a lower surface and an upper surface of the blower (100) as there is no unimpeded path for air to flow through the upper surface and then through the lower surface. In contrast, the current invention discloses the use of support plates that allow for equalization of a pressure difference between an upper surface and lower surface of an impeller. Claim 1 has been amended to further clarify this structural distinction recited in the claim. Thus claims 1 and 2 are not rendered obvious by Yamashita in view of Obinelo, because Yamashita does not disclose a non-contact fluid dynamic bearing as recited the claims and Obinelo does not disclose blade support plates as recited in the claims.

New claim 4 is added herein to include a structural limitation originally provided in claim 1 that further distinguishes the current invention over the cited references.

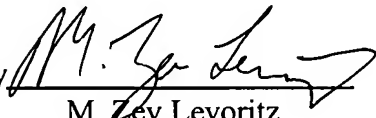
No fee is believed due. If there is any fee due the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 10-1250.

In light of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance of all claims and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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enc: Replacement and Annotated drawing sheets of Figs. 15-17.